



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Great Lakes & Ohio River Division

Habitat Restoration & Protection

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has a number of authorities for assisting States, local governments, and Native American Indian tribes to protect and restore aquatic and terrestrial habitat. These programs provide cost-shared support, not grants. This fact sheet will discuss authorities which may be applicable to threatened habitats within the Great Lakes basin. These programs were authorized under the various Water Resources Development Acts (WRDA).

Restoration of Environmental Quality

Authorization: Section 1135 of WRDA 1986, as amended.

Program Goals: Modify existing Corps project structures and/or operations to restore environmental quality. This authority was recently amended to include restoration project areas that are outside Corps project lands, but were impacted by the project.

Application: Harbor breakwaters have been modified to provide fish habitat. A sea lamprey trap was constructed at the navigation locks at Sault Ste. Marie under this authority.

Cost Sharing: 75% Federal, 25% Non-Federal; operation and maintenance costs are Non-Federal.

Budgetary: Annual funding not to exceed \$25,000,000 Corps-wide. The FY 2000 appropriation for this program is \$10,000,000.

Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration

Authorization: Section 206 of WRDA 1996.

Program Goals: A new, general authority to carry out aquatic ecosystem restoration and protection projects. Sites are not limited to existing Corps projects.

Cost Sharing: 65% Federal, 35% Non-Federal; operation and maintenance costs are Non-Federal.

Budgetary: Annual funding not to exceed \$25,000,000 Corps-wide. The FY 2000 appropriation for this program is \$6,260,000.

Beneficial Use of Dredged Material

Authorization: Section 204 of WRDA 1992.

Program Goals: Protect, restore and create aquatic habitat, including wetlands, in connection with dredging at authorized Federal navigation projects.

Application: Sediments dredged from navigation channels have been used for the construction of islands in coastal and backwater areas in order to restore nesting habitat for migratory waterfowl. A dredged material disposal facility on the Rouge River was configured to restore and protect a coastal wetland. Habitat restoration projects are being studied in Duluth Harbor and Green Bay.

Cost Sharing: 75% Federal, 25% Non-Federal; operation and maintenance costs are Non-Federal. The Non-Federal partner may be a governmental agency or a non-profit organization.

Budgetary: Annual funding not to exceed \$15,000,000 Corps-wide. The FY 2000 appropriation for this program is \$1,000,000.

Great Lakes Remedial Action Plans

Authorization: Section 401 of WRDA 1990, as amended.

Program Goals: To provide technical, planning and engineering assistance to States and local governments in the development and implementation of remedial action plans (RAPs) for Great Lakes areas of concern.

Application: Corps districts are developing plans for remediation of contaminated sediments and habitat restoration in support to the Ashtabula River (Ohio), Grand Calumet River (Indiana), Waukegan Harbor (Illinois) and Detroit River (Michigan) RAPs.

Cost Sharing: 50% Federal, 50% Non-Federal; Non-Federal share may include services in-kind.

Budgetary: Annual funding not to exceed \$3,000,000. The FY 2000 appropriation for this Great Lakes program is \$500,000.

Planning Assistance to States

Authorization: Section 22 of WRDA 1974, as amended.

Program Goals: Support States and tribes in their comprehensive planning for the development, utilization, and conservation of water and related land resources. Section 22 can also be used in watershed and ecosystem planning.

Application: A Corps district has developed a geographic information system (GIS) data base of natural resources on Indian tribal lands under this authority.

Cost Sharing: 50% Federal, 50% State or Tribe

Budgetary: Annual funding not to exceed \$10,000,000 Corps-wide; annual support to each State not to exceed \$500,000. The FY 2000 appropriation for this program is \$5,800,000.

Reconnaissance Study

Under the authority of Section 905(b) of WRDA 1986, the Corps can conduct a Reconnaissance Study of a wide range of potential water resources projects at full-Federal cost, not to exceed \$100,000. This study can be used to determine if aquatic ecosystem problems might be addressed using existing authorities or if a specifically authorized project should be pursued.

Reimbursable Support

Aside from the cost-shared authorities described above, the Corps can provide technical support to State, municipal and tribal agencies on a reimbursable basis.

For More Information

In order to obtain more information about the application of any of these programs in the Great Lakes region, check out the Corps' Great Lakes Region web site

<http://www.lrd.usace.army.mil/gl/gl.htm>

or contact the following Corps District offices for habitats in:

New York, PA and Ohio

Philip Berkeley
Buffalo District
716-879-4145
Philip.E.Berkeley@usace.army.mil

Michigan, MN and WI

Joseph Wanielista
Detroit District
313-226-7474
Joseph.R.Wanielista@usace.army.mil

Illinois and Indiana

Phil Bernstein
Chicago District
312-353-6400 ext 2000
Philip.R.Bernstein@usace.army.mil